

Virginia Emergency Operations Center (VEOC)

Virginia Department of Emergency Management (VDEM)

Virginia Emergency Response Team (VERT)

Hurricane Ophelia

SITUATION REPORT # 7

0700 HOURS September 16, 2005

WEATHER

Forecast:

Hurricane Ophelia has been downgraded to a Tropical Storm, with maximum sustained winds near 65 mph, with higher gusts to the east of the center. Little change in strength is forecast during the next 24 hours. At 5:00 AM EDT, the center of Tropical Storm Ophelia was located by reconnaissance aircraft near Latitude 35.1 North and Longitude 74.8 West or about 40 miles East of Cape Hatteras North Carolina. Tropical storm force winds extend outward up to 105 miles, mainly to the east of the center. All watches and warnings have been dropped for southeast Virginia. No additional rainfall accumulations are expected across eastern North Carolina or southeastern Virginia.

EXECUTIVE ACTION

EOC Activation:

The Virginia EOC has returned to Hurricane Readiness Condition 5 as of 0500 hours on September 16th. All VEOC sections preparing to return to normal operations for Ophelia. For County EOC activations see Protective Actions below.

State of Emergency:

Governor Warner's State of Emergency remains in effect.

Protective Actions:

EOC Activations: None at this time.

Local Emergency Declared: James City County and City of Chesapeake, but now rescinded.

Evacuations: Accomack County and the Town of Chincoteague have called for voluntary evacuation of campgrounds.

Schools Closed: None at this time.

Fixed Nuclear Facilities:

None at this time.

OPERATIONS SECTIONS

State Warning Point:

Maintaining contact with local Emergency Operation Centers. Checking equipment and supplies as scheduled, reviewing the daily log and developing the staff schedule. Preparing for return to routine operations.

Local Liaison:

Prepared to receive and respond to requests for assistance from the localities and continuing outreach efforts.

EMERGENCY SERVICES BRANCH

Firefighting (ESF 4):

Virginia Department of Fire Programs (VDFP)

Reviewing weather advisories. Staffing the VEOC. Maintaining contacts with fire resources to monitor availability.

Virginia Department of Forestry (VDOF)

Commodity staging area established near Emporia is being managed by 2 DOF personnel. Currently there are 150 trucks of water, 100 trucks of ice and 13 trucks of "Meals Ready to Eat" (MREs) at this location under federal contract. Staffing the ESF4 desk at the VEOC as well as Local Liaison support. Two personnel are staffing the agency's Command Center in Charlottesville and at least 1 person is assisting in each of the agencies 6 regional offices as necessary to assist with crew deployments and support.

Health & Medical (ESF 8):**Virginia Department of Health (VDH)**

Monitoring weather advisories and reviewing Hurricane Response Plan checklists. Monitoring Office of Emergency Medical Services (OEMS) Taskforce readiness. Reviewing VDH example Public Information Advisories, Fact Sheets and News Releases for possible issuance. Providing ESF8 coverage to VEOC. Maintaining contacts with long term care and hospital facilities on preparatory status.

Search & Rescue (ESF 9):**VDEM Search and Rescue (SAR)**

Participated in conference call with North Carolina / FEMA Region IV. They intend to demobilize the 3 FEMA USAR teams on standby in Raleigh at 0800 September 16, 2005. Continuing to monitor and maintain ready status of state SAR assets.

**Public Safety & Security:
(ESF 13)****Virginia State Police (VSP)**

75 Troopers, 5 Supervisors and swift water rescue team sent to Division 5 Headquarters in Chesapeake. VSP has assigned 16 of 75 to the Eastern Shore, bringing the total number on the shore to 29.

Virginia National Guard (VNG)

The Emporia Armory mission to secure a tractor-trailer containing generators was cancelled. The generators were redirected to North Carolina.

82 soldiers from the 276th Engineers have been placed on State Active Duty and pre-positioned to respond to Hurricane Ophelia at Norfolk and Onancock armories.

National Guard EOC at Fort Pickett is conducting mission analysis and planning to support a potential request from VDEM and FEMA to assist in distribution of food, water and ice in the event Ophelia makes landfall and causes widespread loss of water and power.

HUMAN SERVICES BRANCH**Agriculture & Natural
Resources (ESF 11):****Virginia Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services (VDACS)**

Food commodities are available in schools and distribution centers. VDACS has identified 6 distribution centers throughout the Commonwealth and is checking to determine if distribution centers can transport commodities to affected areas. VDACS could not release food for delivery to North Carolina without USDA approval. Supplies available in schools and distribution centers in Lynchburg, Danville, and Suffolk, as well as Johnson City Tennessee. I.J. Company in Johnson City Tennessee can deliver and go out of state. DVF Food Service in Danville can deliver in Virginia and North Carolina only. SYSCO of Hampton Roads in Suffolk has permits that allow deliveries out of state, but may or may not want to use their trucks to make deliveries. Quality Food Cooperative in Lynchburg has indicated that they would be able to provide and transport needed foods to Hurricane victims. They can provide and distribute products to Virginia only.

Virginia Department of Corrections (VDOC)

Reported that all 3 field kitchens are unavailable due to renovation of permanent feeding facilities; however, 300 cases of Meals Ready to Eat (MRE's) at 12 per case, are immediately available.

Mass Care (ESF 6):

Virginia Department of Social Services (VDSS), American Red Cross (ARC), Voluntary Organizations Active in Disaster (VOAD)

Communicating with local emergency managers and local social services departments to prepare for sheltering if required. Assessing mobile feeding capabilities. Three church kitchens in the Tidewater area have backup generator power and may be able to assist with feeding operations if needed. MRE's/Heater meals are available for immediate feeding needs. Food banks have been put on alert and are reviewing vendor agreements for food. VOAD has assessed the availability of mobile kitchens for mass feeding operations. Baptist General Association of Virginia has placed five mobile feeding units on standby to be placed as needed in Accomack, Newport News and Virginia Beach. The Salvation Army has 2 large fixed kitchens in Norfolk and one available canteen. The Food Bank of Southeast Virginia has four trucks available to haul dry or frozen food housed at the Norfolk Food Bank. Identified 23 "Kid Cafes" that operate out of Girls and Boys Clubs with capability to prepare meals. The Catholic Diocese of Richmond can prepare meals at 2-3 schools, and three large parish approved kitchen facilities.

INFRASTRUCTURE SUPPORT BRANCH

Transportation (ESF 1):

Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT)

Reviewing weather advisories. Providing VDEM with GIS staff support for the next few days. Reviewing hurricane preparedness checklists with emphasis on the Hampton Roads area. Tiger teams are on standby. Will provide resource support as requested.

Telecommunications & IT (ESF 2):

Virginia Information Technology Agency (VITA)

Reviewing weather advisories and maintaining readiness. Completed update of emergency contact information of communications companies. Checked on status of Verizon activities. Staffing the VEOC. Contacted all partner agencies in the tidewater area, through Enterprise Service Director (ESDs) and Service Level Directors (SLDs) and ensuring notification and readiness procedures are properly communicated to them. Monitoring Verizon for outages in the Tidewater area.

Energy Group (ESF 12):

State Corporation Commission (SCC)

Monitoring weather advisories and maintaining readiness. Continuing to monitor terminals, local distributors and power companies.

LOGISTICS SECTION

Resource Support (ESF 7):

VDEM/FEMA

Confirming availability and updating point of contact for priority resources. Continuing coordination with local government. Development of a FEMA Assistance Request Form (ARF) for federal assistance to authorize the use of Fort Eustis assets (such as a Local Staging Unit) to establish a transportation link between the mainland and eastern shore Virginia. Mobilization of five statewide staging areas and numerous local distribution areas in Region 5. Sandbagging material is on stand-by. Providing support to the Virginia Emergency Response Team (VERT), meals to the EOC staff, replenishing supplies and completing the VEOC staff directory. Preparing to process statewide mutual aid and EMAC requests.

PLANNING SECTION

Emergency Management: (ESF 5)

VDEM

Continuing to update, produce and distribute daily situation reports and Incident Action Plans. Reviewing tropical storm and general weather conditions and providing analysis. Coordinating with the FEMA planning section. Monitoring conference calls with localities, state agencies and U.S. Coast Guard. Coordinating potential Commonwealth impacts with the National Weather Service (NWS) and the National Hurricane Center (NHC). Analyzing information from available sources and providing

briefings to Command Staff, Branch Chiefs, and ESF's. Monitoring Action Tracking entries and providing technical assistance to state agencies and localities as needed.

FINANCE SECTION

Emergency Management: (ESF 5)

VDEM

Providing reservist availability, processing timesheets, aiding in staffing, tracking expenditures, procuring equipment and supplies for the VEOC and other response locations.

EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

Public Information (ESF 15):

VDEM

Two media calls on September 15, 2005. Sixteen calls to Virginia Public Inquiry Center (VPIC), mostly people wanting to volunteer. Providing outreach to the media (including Hispanic media) on response to Hurricane Ophelia. Staffing and managing the VPIC. Updating the VDEM website with response and recovery information. Providing local, state and public information outreach.

LOCAL ACTIVITIES

Region I:

No activity.

Region II:

No activity.

Region III:

No activity.

Region IV:

No activity.

Region V:

Accomack County and the Town of Chincoteague have called for voluntary evacuation of campgrounds. This is a precautionary measure. The localities are not reporting any problems at this time.

Region VI:

No activity.

Region VII:

No activity.

FEDERAL GOVERNMENT

FEMA:

Emergency Response Team – Advance (ERT-A) from FEMA Region 3 is in place. Located at least one facility of appropriate size containing appropriate features (loading dock space, square footage, and some office space) for the Initial Operation Facility (IOF) – Joint Field Office (JFO). Five two-man prime power assessment teams are available with additional support through USACE contractors to assist with critical facility power requirements and solutions. Working to verify 10 low-end generators still located in Atlanta, Georgia for deployment to Emporia, Virginia. FEMA USAR Task Forces from Fairfax (Task Force-1) and Maryland (Task Force-1) deployed to Virginia Beach.

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